

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference related to this application. Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-10 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been amended. Claims 12-20 have been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed. Specifically, Figure 3 of the application as filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the acceptance of the drawings filed on September 13, 2006.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner points out that the listing of references in the Search Report is not considered to be an Information Disclosure Statement complying with 37 CFR 1.98 because 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) requires a legible copy of each foreign patent and that some references cited in the Search Report have not been considered. Applicant apologizes for the oversight, attaches hereto a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a copy of each listed foreign patent. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner consider these references.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Smith (GB 2332722). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Smith (GB 2332722) in view of Palm (U.S. Pat. No. 5,183,357).

The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation the mandrel has a head having a shoulder with a bearing surface which is substantially perpendicular to the stem. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the tubular body defines a mandrel accepting bore having a substantially constant inner diameter.

Applicant respectfully assert the cited prior art does not teach a rivet having these limitations. As such, Applicant submits the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

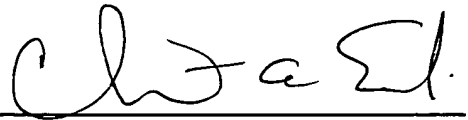
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb 23, 2007

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